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Editor's Mailbox

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Mr. Lloyd Vaughan
Editor
Times-Virginian
Appomattox, Va.
Dear Mr. Vaughan:

Although I no longer reside in Appomattox, I still consider it "my town". Consequently, I am quite disturbed to hear frequent reports of dissatisfaction with the changes made there, particularly within the school system, in the past year or so. The disruptions and ensuing complaints seem endless.

What hit me the deepest, making me realize the severity of the state of general disgruntlement was the receival of a letter from one of ACHS' most outstanding students, which expressed her sentiments: she was, frankly, ashamed to be a part of ACHS, now. It seems to me as if a situation which propagated a statement such as this warrants grief. The question that plagues my mind is, "What could be the crux of the problem?"

As should be expected, integration has been a disturbing force in Appomattox. But, then, any change requires adjustment, and it can be made easier if the long-range goal is kept in mind as much as is humanly possible. Integration is inevitable in our country, or if it is not, it should be. It is progress, and, though such progress if retarded in Virginia, simply by virtue of the conservative nature of the state, this progress must be strived for. Problems inevitably result when old prejudices and traditions hold fast —when ideas do not change as fast as is warranted by new knowledge and population size problems.

More important, integration will make our nation a little less segmented, giving us a unity that is badly needed in this time when "The Revolution" threatens to completely dissipate our social, economic, and political order. In the light of current national unrest, does not adjustment to one's fellow man, simply because of skin color, seem a trival task?

It seems as if the biggest issue in Appomattox, lately, has been the divesting of position of Mr. Gordon Bragg. Being at a vantage-point from which the only information I receive is through the papers limits my knowledge of the facts and local opinion on the issue. But no matter what the actual events may have been (with a few reservations, of course) the most extant feature of this situation seems to be that the "will of the people" is being disregarded. (Nixon made that mistake, and look what it, quite rightly, got him into!) Most opinions expressed publicly, via Times-Va., have been in favor of Mr. Bragg's reinstatement, I believe.

Refuting a statement in ACHS . . . Now! (May , 1970) which said that, "Getting an education is a PRIVILEGE, not a RIGHT", assert that the educational system, just as the government, IN THEORY(), is subject to the wishes of the people—that it belongs to us. Students at Appomattox, as well as anywhere else is the U.S., PAY for that education (though indirectly, through their parents' taxes.) Therefore, their, and other citizens of Appomattox's wishes should be heeded, should they not?

I am, admittedly, insufficiently informed, and should, perhaps, be sitting here with my foot in my mouth! If changes have been made recently to rectify the wrongs done, and if attitudes have changed, overthrowing racial prejudices in Appomattox, then may I commend all those who have given up a little something to accomplish this? If changes have NOT come, then may I ask Appomattox to become a little more idealistic? Seems to me that if all men stuck to the Christian ideal of "Love thy neighbor", and the American dream of democracy, not only in the federal and state governments, but in all sectors under their (the governments') control, it would eliminate conflict on all levels, from personal, through local, state, and national, to international.

Appomattox is a beautiful little town—a reality that, sometimes, does not hit you until you leave it. I hope very few of its residents will, like my friend, find cause in the future to be ashamed of it.

For all of you who can, make it what it can be, and don't let anyone make you feel ashamed to be one of its residents. You never know what a good thing is until you lose it—so stand behind "our" little "Depot"!

Sincerely
Betty M.Sheed
Student
Mary Washington College

ROCKS

May 25 — It was quite warm here over the week end.

Mrs. Robert Roach spent last Sunday with her mother, Mrs. Mildred Inge.

Toby Inge hurt his knee last Saturday. A speedy recovery is wished him.

Farmers are busy planting tobacco and cutting hay.

Mrs. Helen McLaughlin and Cassie Baldwin went on the Home Demonstration Club Tour last Tuesday in Charlottesville.

Mrs. Kate Dinkins arrived last Monday from Roanoke to visit Mr. and Mrs. W.R.Moore and Mrs. Mildred Inge for a few days before going to Crewe.

The ladies are busy working on strawberries.

Sabrina Richardson will enter Lynchburg General Hospital today for a tonsil operation Tuesday.

Mrs. Joe Almond took Tim to a doctor in Lynchburg Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Aulden Roach and family spent the week end in Richmond with his sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson Almond spent the week end at Richwood West Va. with Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Harvey.

The Bible School faculty and workers met last Sunday afternoon for a meeting.

Lewis Dickerson was not so well last week. He went to see a doctor in Lynchburg Friday night.

The Beta Club of Appomattox High School presented special music for Youth Service at Rocks Sunday. The Youth did a fine job.

Jimmie Ranson brought a fine message at the Preaching hour.

Lisa Carol Mitchell of Appomattox spent the week end with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ranson.

Rev. W. H. Elder and family will attend the Graduation exercise at Bluefield College of their son, Frank Lee, on Sunday, May 31.

The Pastor Speaks

THE LOVE THAT BINDS

"All that a marriage needs to hold it together is enough love."

Some people believe this is so, and I think it is. Many people, however, mean quite different things by saying the word love. To some, love is just an emotion that may be as fleeting as the wind. To others it is deep growing attraction that improves and develops with age. To others it is something they read about in a newspaper or see displayed on the movie screen. Love is different things to different people.

In I Corinthians 13 Paul talks about the kind of love that binds one to another. Says Paul, "Love suffers long and is kind. Love does not envy. Love does not project itself forward, and it is not easily puffed up. It does not behave itself discourteously. It doesn't seek its own. It is not easily provoked. It doesn't think evil."

Says Paul, love is patient. Genuine love will bear with a rascally disposition from a husband and a tart tongue from a wife. Love is kind. Genuine love does not return to either the husband or the wife the evil results of harmful deeds. It is kind.

Love does not envy. It is not jealous. Love doesn't behave itself discourteously. It always thinks of the other person. Love is not easily provoked. It does not give up easily or give in easily. Love in a marriage will keep that marriage from going on the rocks quickly. Love will prompt each partner to say "I will not give up".

Love is strong, patient, forgiving, merciful and kind. Love is courteous, unselfish, durable, and holy. Love grows, develops, and matures. Love does bind a marriage together. May your marriage be filled to overflowing with this precious quality of love.

Dr. Thomas D. Lea,
Pastor, Liberty Baptist Church

Dial Good News
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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

BY LAWRENCE W. ALTHOUSE

THE BETTER PROMISE

Lesson of May 31, 1970

Background Scripture: Hebrews 8:1 through 10:18.
Devotional Reading: 1 John 5: 1-5.

"We all believe in the same God, don't we?"

How often we have heard that question or one similar to it. Do we "all believe in the same God," and, if so, what is distinctive about the gospel of Jesus Christ?

The Same God

You may recall that there were times when the Apostle Paul spoke to the gentiles, not about Jesus Christ, to begin with, but about the truth they had learned from their religions. He did not denounce their religion as false, but acknowledged that they were seeking the same God as he. "What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you" (Acts 17:23). Paul was referring to a stone on Athens' Mars' Hill which was dedicated "To an unknown God."

The people who listened to Paul on Mars' Hill did not have to be Jews or Christians in order to have perceived a God who created the world and is at work in it. Men of different religions can reach that conclusion. Behind the world which they could see, they knew there was some Power or power that both created and sustained the world.

Paul goes on to say however, that: "The God who has made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man" (17:24). In other words, he is saying, your religion has taught you some truth about God, but there is a greater truth about God that I have come to reveal to you. These people know there is a God (indeed, many of them believed in many gods), but they do not know fully what this God is like. What Kind Of God?

In this sense, we all do "believe in the same God." Yet Paul helps us to see that in another sense this is not true. He is the same God, but our understanding of what he is like may be so different that it may seem he is another god altogether.

For example, I may feel I pretty well know my next-door neighbor. I know what he looks like, we talk together from time to time, and I can observe some of the things that he does. Yet, though he is the same man, he may appear to be an altogether different man to his wife and children who know much more of what he is really like.

So it is with God. We do not say that those of other religious persuasions do not know anything of God, but that what they know of him is not enough, in our estimation, to make life as full and rich as we know it can be. Because of Jesus Christ, we know him, not as a next-door neighbor, but as a Father.

This is also what the writer of Hebrews meant when he spoke of the "better promise" which is available through Jesus Christ. The old covenant, the old relationship between God and his people, was not false or evil, he indicates, but it will not bring man as close to God as the new covenant in Jesus Christ. There was value in the old but an even greater value in the new.

In Their Hearts

The old covenant was external and limited. The sins of Israel covered certain specific situations, but the people of Israel were constantly coming to new situations, new circumstances. Therefore they frequently needed someone or something to interpret the law of the new situation. They obeyed the law, but often their motives were hardly commendable, for the law was something foreign and hostile to them. It was a "thing," not a "person." As J. Harry Cotton has put it, "No code can create an honest man. No man is really honest until integrity is written in his mind."

That is why the "new covenant" was really the "better promise:"

This is the covenant that I will make with house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10b).

(Based on outlines prepared by the Division of Christian Education, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. Released by Religious News Service.)

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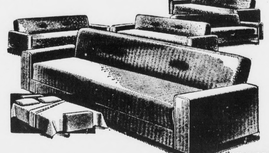

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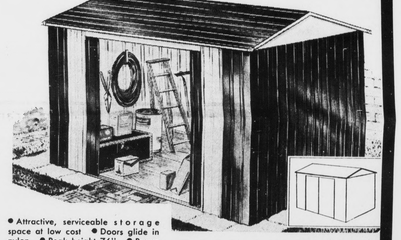

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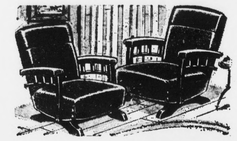

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